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16. *Modification of the Game Rules.*

Mr. D. G. Cameron (Member, South Travai Planters' Association) stated that, as the owners or occu of land within or adjoining forest areas were alone l to be much affected by the laws for the protection of gar the destruction of wild animals and vermin, and nc general community, special consideration should be g to the representations of the former in regard to the posed Game laws. There was no question as to the de bility of protecting animals, such as elephants, bison, bhur, pigs etc., which were useful for many purposes, as they were specially destructive to cultivation, the portance of not letting them become too numerous sh not be lost sight of, while tigers and other animals dange to human life should be destroyed whenever possible. however, the proposed 'close season' was to be from the January to the 20th May, it was certain that practically n of the objects desired would be attained, that season be the one best adapted for sport. No one was likely enter the forests for game during the rainy season, only because cover would then be so dense as to mal difficult to see, or follow up animals when seen, but als cause the discomfort from leeches and other pests w deter people from entering the jungle at that season. Member said that he could affirm from his personal exp ence that sportsmen had nothing to do with the yearly which did so much damage to the young trees in grass lar but, on the contrary, the interests of the sportsman w prompt him to save the grass and he would do all he c in that direction. The people who were interested in th fires, and who probably did much to promote th were the stock-owners in the vicinity, who had b for centuries accustomed to graze their cattle and naturally wanted the young and succulent feeding wh followed on a successful fire. He doubted whether Government would ever be able to prevent th fires, the area to be protected being so vast effectual policing did not seem practical. M could be done by restricting protection to selected ar and cutting firebelts. The Member therefore sugges that the period from the 15th May to the 1st Decem should be declared the 'close season,' as that was the nat season when the bulk of the animals had their young.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be considered.

(3) *Excise Revenue.*

17. *Modification of the provision relating to the cancellation of li-*

Mr. Kora Varkey (Member, Kottayam Trading Class said that the Administration Report showed that

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censes in the Foreign Liquor Rules.

licenses issued for the sale of foreign liquor were cancelled in 1085. Though the licenses issued were valid only for one year, in cases where the traders were not guilty of any breach of the Abkari Regulation or Rules, it had been usual in the past to permit the licenses to be continued in succeeding years as well. Rule 26 of the Foreign Liquor Rules provided for the revocation of a license after giving only 15 days' notice. The Member referred to the losses that would be caused to the traders by the enforcement of this rule. In a case like that, the trader whose license was cancelled was forced to sell the articles in his stores to other licensed traders for whatever the latter might offer. There was also very great difficulty in recovering the outstanding dues from one's customers after the cancellation of the license. The result was that people who went in for the trade in foreign liquor not only gained nothing but they were put to heavy losses. The Member therefore requested that the rule in question might be so modified as to provide for a year's notice being given to a trader before his license was cancelled.

Dewan's reply.—The Excise Commissioner will be asked so to arrange the renewal of licenses as to produce the minimum amount of dislocation of trade.

8. *Establishment of a Tobacco bankshall at Kottayam.*

Mr. Kora Varkey (Member, Kottayam Trading Classes) stated that the trade of Kottayam had increased of late by the establishment of a District Court there and the opening of the Aruthooty canal. The supply of the articles required for the Tea Estates at Peermade and the Rubber Estates at Mundakayam &c., was made by the wholesale merchants of Kottayam, and the people of Pazhur, Ponkunnam, Kanjirapalli, Peruvanthanam and other places also indented on the Kottayam merchants for their supply. In the existing state of things, the Mellabhom merchants in the taluks of Changanacherri, Ettumanur, Thiruvella and Minachil had to get down their tobacco and keep it at the Alleppey bankshall and remove it from there in small quantities according to necessity. During the monsoon period, it would be dangerous to take any article across the Vembanad backwater. If therefore a bankshall be established at Kottayam, it would serve the Mellabhom merchants of all the abovesaid four taluks. The Member added that the Excise Commissioner had, on a former occasion, promised to open a bankshall at Kottayam, provided the merchants were prepared to pay warehouse rent at a higher rate than that prevailing in the other bankshalls. As such a demand was unjust and as the Government

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